

Your Commissioners met with instances where gentlemen were reluctant to express their opinions, because, as they alleged, they had been previously misrepresented by parties who had sought interviews with them, and received information from them upon the same subject. To remove this difficulty, notes of conversations were taken at the time, and in most instances read over before leaving; and Your Commissioners are of opinion, that at the risk of lengthening the report, it will be better and more satisfactory to record what was said or written by each individual, than by giving a synopsis, run the risk of being liable to the charge of misunderstanding on the one hand, or the charge of suppression on the other.

Your Commissioners divided the subject of their enquiry into the following questions:

First.—What are the provisions of the law in force in each State?

Second.—Is the law enforced, and if not, why not?

Third.—What has been the result in any State of a change from prohibition to license or *vice versa*?

Fourth.—What have been the effects of prohibition upon the social and moral condition of the people?

Your Commissioners have endeavored to obtain replies, both verbal, and documentary, to each of these queries, and now present to His Excellency the answers to each query under each State:—

FIRST QUESTION.—*What are the provisions of the law in force?*

MAINE.

The law referring to this matter commences with Sec. 22 of Chap. 27 of the Revised Statutes.

Sec. 22—Prohibits sale of intoxicating liquors by any person, his clerk, servant, or agent, directly or indirectly, except as provided.

Also defines as intoxicating liquors, ale, porter, beer, lager-beer, and all other malt liquors, wine and cider, as well as all distilled spirits.

Sec. 23—Prohibits manufacture for unlawful sale, and regulates the manufacture for lawful sale, provides against adulteration, and for the giving of bonds by the manufacturer.

Sec. 24—Provides the penalty for breach of Sec. 23.

Sec. 25—Exempts from operation of statute manufacture and sale by the manufacturer, of cider; also agents appointed under the statute for the sale of pure wine for sacramental and medicinal use.

Sec. 26—Authorizes selectmen of towns, and mayors and aldermen of cities, to purchase liquors and appoint agents for the sale of such liquors, for medicinal, mechanical, and manufacturing purposes. Forbids such agents from having any interest in the liquor, or profit from sale thereof.